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## MU NewsLetter, January 28, 1999

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# NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WV 25755 • Jan. 28, 1999

## Special Edition

# Faculty and Staff News

The following letter was sent to the Cabell-Wayne delegation in the Legislature and signed by presidents Dennison (Faculty Senate), Deel (Classified Staff Council) and Gilley. The letter and the attached priority listing of legislative issues were a joint effort between the administration, the Faculty Senate legislative committee and the Classified Staff Council beginning last spring (1998) and continuing. While the PEIA crisis has caused the university to recalibrate its legislative focus, all of the issues are considered to be important.

Concerning the PEIA crisis, as a university we have many allies including all state workers — teachers, higher education, highway department and other state employees and retirees. This is one issue where the state employees and retirees are certain to be fully engaged.

### **Letter sent to Cabell-Wayne delegation:**

As promised, we are writing to solicit your support of the Marshall University legislative agenda for the coming year which has been developed cooperatively by the Faculty Senate, the Classified Staff Council and the administration. That agenda is attached.

High on the Marshall list this year are support for continued commitment to the SB 547 strategic planning funding of 3.25% and concern about the fate of the PEIA and the impact of any change on individual employees. And we respectfully suggest that some amount be allocated in a line item for those institutions which experience growth in enrollments in 1999-2000. If institutions do not receive any funds for additional students, then there is no incentive to intensify recruiting efforts and raise the college going rate in West Virginia.

Beyond these, Marshall would like to request consideration of the following items at the earliest possible date or at least when the SB 547 legislation expires and a new higher education bill is developed and passed.

Marshall is concerned about the process of identification of peer institutions within the SREB for the purposes of resource allocation and target salaries for faculty. While we are concerned about associating our state with the SREB for the purpose of resource allocation, tuition levels and faculty salary averages, our specific concern is more with the process of identification of peers within the SREB. The SREB has an institutional classification system which is significantly different from that used by the federal government and all other higher education associations in the nation. What is used nationally is called the "Carnegie" classification system and most people use the federally-collected HEGIS data for institutional classification and comparison. We will submit more information on this issue as part of the post-SB 547 process.

And Marshall faculty and staff are concerned about the distribution of constituent representation on the various advisory councils to the Board of Trustees. We will also raise that issue through the post-SB 547 process.

The classified staff has a strong interest in removing the 20-year cap on the annual increment. The classified staff views the current cap on the annual increment as penalizing individuals for their longevity and their loyalty.

Finally, we want you to know that the university community appreciates the strong support we have enjoyed from our friends in the Legislature, particularly the Cabell-Wayne delegation, over the years. For example, your support for the special medical school allocation

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# Faculty and Staff News

last year, among many other items, was noted and greatly appreciated.

We are ready to provide you with additional information as needed. While Charlotte Weber and Bill Burdette are on point for the university, all of us are available to assist you in any way.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed: Gilley, Dennison and Deel)

## Attachment:

### Marshall University Legislative Agenda for 1999

The following are the preliminary legislative goals for Marshall University. They were developed in cooperation with the Legislative Committee of the Faculty Senate and by consultation with the Staff Council and Student Government. These do not include faculty and staff proposals which are multi-institutional in nature.

Additional discussion and suggestions will be sought on a continuing basis through January.

## Financial

- Secure the fourth year of the SB 547 Plan appropriation of 3.25%.
- Secure funds to fully fund the increased PEIA premiums and encourage Legislature to resolve PEIA's financial problems in a fair and equitable manner.
- Secure the \$1 million 1998 appropriation for the Marshall School of Medicine as a part of the school's base budget.
- Secure the additional funds appropriated in 1998 for the increased increment.
- Request a special line item to support additional students at those institutions which are growing.

- Offer a list of proposed high priority capital projects in the case that a higher education new bond issue, using lottery or other funds, is considered. The highest priority capital projects identified by Marshall to date include a new fine arts facility, a parking garage, a new science/biomedical facility and renovation funds for Smith, Harris and Prichard Halls. (Projects such as a new recreation center will have to be funded by Marshall student fees.)

## Other Legislative Items

- Adjust Marshall's peer group in light of the recent merger and the expansion of graduate education.
- Seek legislation allowing Marshall to give graduate tuition waivers equal to 10% of the graduate FTES enrollment in recognition of the comprehensiveness of the graduate program after the merger. WVU's current authorization is 5% for undergraduates and 10% for graduate students. Marshall historically has been limited to 5% of undergraduate and 5% of graduate students. The WVGC was also limited to 5% of its FTES enrollment. All other state colleges in West Virginia are limited to 5% of undergraduate enrollments.
- Seek legislation enabling Marshall to grant tuition waivers for employees' dependents.